



Name _____

What is a mineral?

- 1) A mineral must occur _____ in the Earth's crust. It cannot be a manufactured or manmade item.
- 2) A mineral must be _____ rather than organic. Organic materials are formed from _____ things. Minerals must be made from materials that were never living things.
- 3) A mineral is always a _____. Minerals cannot be liquids or gases.
- 4) A mineral has a _____ _____. Minerals may be made of a single element. Some minerals are formed by compounds, or combinations of two or more elements.
- 5) A mineral's atoms are arranged in a definite _____. This repeating pattern is called a _____.

Circle the items below that meet all five characteristics of a mineral.

Halite(salt)

Diamond

Ice

Steel

Coal

Sugar

Gold

Graphite

Silver

Cement

Wood

Copper

Oxygen

Sulfur

Glass



What is a mineral?

- 1) A mineral must occur **naturally** in the Earth's crust. It cannot be a manufactured or manmade item.
- 2) A mineral must be **inorganic** rather than organic. Organic materials are formed from **living** things. Minerals must be made from materials that were never living things.
- 3) A mineral is always a **solid**. Minerals cannot be liquids or gases.
- 4) A mineral has a **definite chemical composition**. Minerals may be made of a single element. Some minerals are formed by compounds, or combinations of two or more elements.
- 5) A mineral's atoms are arranged in a definite **pattern**. This repeating pattern is called a **crystal**.

Circle the items below that meet all five characteristics of a mineral.

Halite(salt)	Diamond	Ice
Steel	Coal	Sugar
Gold	Graphite	Silver
Cement	Wood	Copper
Oxygen	Sulfur	Glass

Possible reasons for non-minerals:

Steel - manmade, no crystals

Cement - manmade

Oxygen - gas

Coal - organic

Wood - organic

Sugar - organic

Glass - no crystals

Ice may not be normally thought of as a mineral; however, it meets all the characteristics.